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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [PREF](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: 25 FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STANDS DEMOLISHED BY IDF IN
JORDAN VALLEY

Classified By: Consul General Jake Walles for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[¶1.](#) (C) Summary. On August 12, according to Palestinian contacts, the IDF demolished 25 fruit and vegetable stands along route 90 in the northern Jordan Valley. This is the first significant demolition in the West Bank since late March. End Summary.

[¶2.](#) (C) Local produce vendors in the Jordan Valley told PolOffs August 21 that, on August 12, the IDF executed demolition orders for 25 fruit and vegetable stands. The stands were along route 90 between Bisan checkpoint and the road to Jiftlik village. Fawaz Sawafteh, who owned one of the demolished stands, said the soldiers told him the demolitions were intended as punishment for rock throwing in the area. Sawafteh denied to PolOffs that there had been any rock throwing. He and Ibrahim Daraghma, whose family's stand was also demolished, said the IDF confiscated all the fruit, vegetables, and other products being sold at the time of the demolitions.

[¶3.](#) (C) PolOffs saw only one intact fruit stand along route [¶90](#). Its proprietor, Riad Foqaha, told Poloffs that he rents the structure from settlers in nearby Mehola. Foqaha built an adjacent stall to the rented structure, which was demolished. One of the soldiers told him the remaining portion of his fruit stand would be demolished if he did not move, but then spared the stand when Foqaha told him that its owner was in Mehola settlement.

[¶4.](#) (C) Comment. The demolition of 25 fruit and vegetable stands, which constituted the livelihood of some 25 Jordan Valley families, is the first significant structure demolition in the West Bank since late March, notwithstanding GOI assurances to the US that demolitions would not continue in the West Bank. End Comment.

WALLES